

**CAPSULE SUMMARY****BA-1038****133 Chesapeake Avenue****East Towson, Baltimore County****Date Unknown****Private**

The dwelling at 133 Chesapeake Avenue was in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendants of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

Fronting southwest, this vernacular wood frame dwelling is sited on a grassy lot with foundation plantings, a paved driveway, and several mature trees and shrubs on the property. The main section of the building is two stories high and two bays wide and sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation. This section has an English basement, which contains a single-leaf glass-and-panel wood door covered by a gable portico supported with square wood posts. All windows on the main section are 8/8 double-hung vinyl sashes and feature paneled fixed vinyl shutters. However, the second story windows are shorter in height than the two on the first story. The gable addition on the southeast elevation maintains the front entrance to the building, and the addition on the northwest elevation has a half-hipped roof. Both additions sit on poured concrete foundation. The building is capped with an off center side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building is re-clad with coursed wood shingles. There is no evidence of historic fabric on the exterior.

Inventory No. BA- 1038

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic	Mt. Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church
other	

## 2. Location

street and number	133 Chesapeake Avenue	— not for publication
city, town	Baltimore	— vicinity
county	Baltimore County	

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Mount Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc.				
street and number	300 Eudowood Lane			telephone	Not Available
city, town	Baltimore	state	MD	zip code	21286-5453

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	liber	14929	folio	186
city, town	Towson	tax map	70A	tax parcel	250
				tax ID number	923501100

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  X  </u> building(s)	<u>  X  </u> private	_____ commerce/trade	_____ recreation/culture	<u>      1      </u>	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	<u>  X  </u> religion	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____ social	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	<u>      1      </u>	_____ Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ industry	_____ other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>      1      </u>	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. BA- 1038

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Fronting southwest, this vernacular wood frame dwelling is sited on a grassy lot with foundation plantings, a paved driveway, and several mature trees and shrubs on the property. The main section of the building is two stories high and two bays wide and sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation with two small additions on the side elevations. This section has an English basement, which contains a single-leaf glass-and-panel wood door covered by a gable portico supported with square wood posts. All windows on the main section are 8/8 double-hung vinyl sashes and feature paneled fixed vinyl shutters. However, the second story windows are shorter in height than the two on the first story. The gable addition on the southeast elevation maintains the front entrance to the building, and the addition on the northwest elevation has a half-hipped roof. Both additions sit on poured concrete foundation. The building is capped with an off center side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building is re-clad with coursed wood shingles. There is no evidence of historic fabric on the exterior of the building.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1038

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** unknown

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** unknown

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 133 Chesapeake Avenue in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County, has an unknown construction date due to its altered exterior. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation.. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1038

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>.16 Acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Towson</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 133 Chesapeake Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 250 since its construction.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	R. Weidlich, K. Baynard, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	January 2, 2002
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1038  
Name: House, 133 Chesapeake Avenue  
East Towson  
Baltimore County



Prepared by:  
Baltimore County Office of Planning  
401 Bosley Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
June, 2001



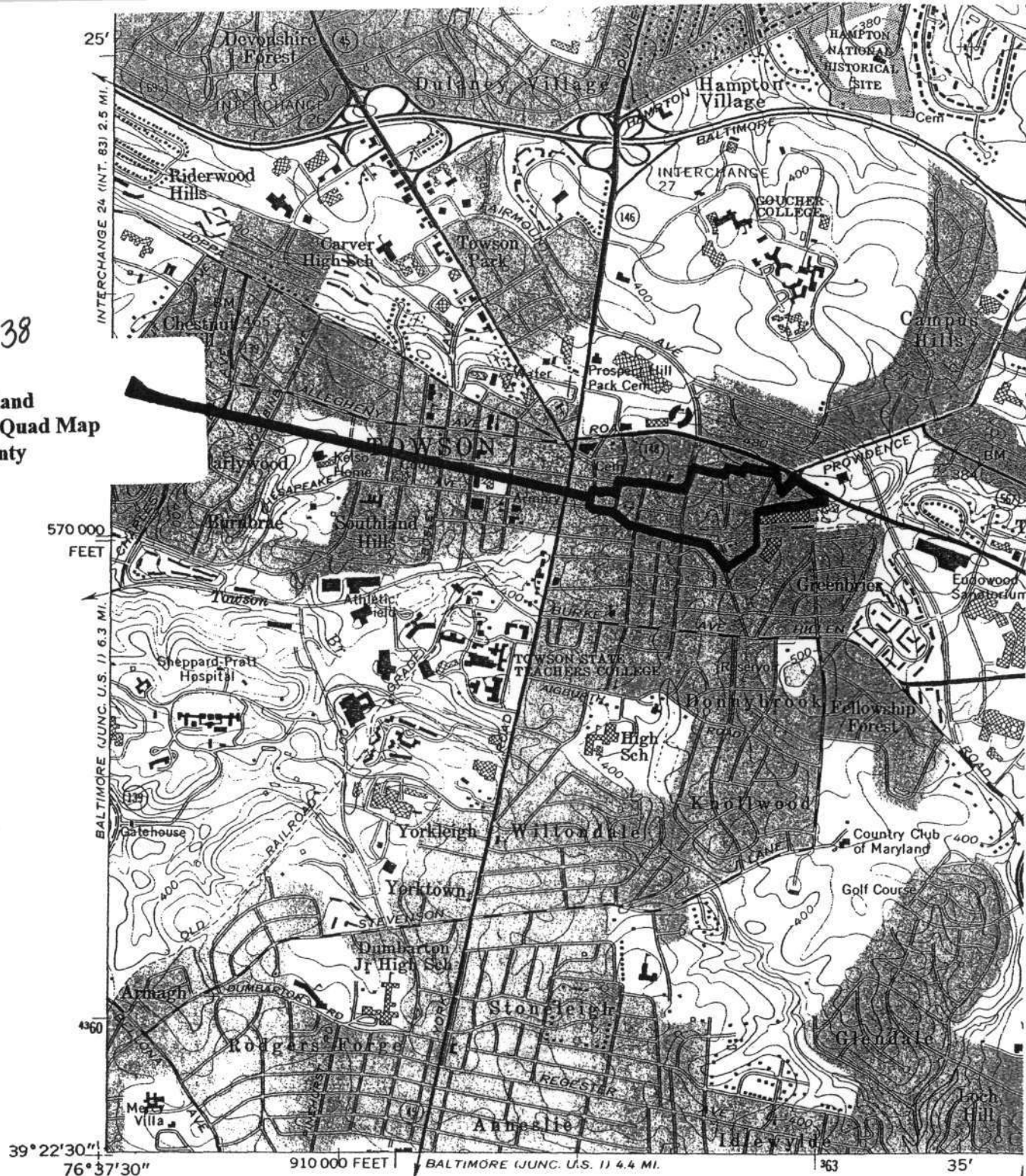
Scale  
1 inch = 200 feet  
1:2400  
100 0 100 200 Feet

## Legend

- |                             |                       |                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| — Paved Roads               | — Study Area Boundary | — Hydrographic Features |
| - - - Unpaved Roads         | □ Buildings           | ■ Vegetation            |
| ▭ Paved Parking / Driveways |                       |                         |

Data Sources:  
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)  
Coordinate System:  
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum  
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum  
Date of Data Capture: March 1998  
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA 1038  
 East Towson  
 Towson, Maryland  
 Towson USGS Quad Map  
 Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)  
 5662 / SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

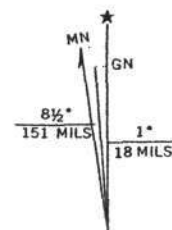
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
 field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



PA-1038

HOUSE, 133 CHESAPEAKE AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER

1 of 3



BA-1038  
HOUSE, 133 CHESAPEAKE AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001  
MD-SAPO  
NORTHWEST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1038  
HOUSE, 133 CHESAPEAKE AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES  
10/2001  
MD-SHPO  
NORTHEAST CORNER  
3 of 3

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE MAYFIELD WILLIAMS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 133 E. Chesapeake Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☐ ACCESSIBLE  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Robert H. Williams

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

133 E. Chesapeake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 1510

Folio #: 434

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

BA-1038 -

133 Chesapeake

before 1877

The original section of this two-story frame house is two bays square over a stone cellar which is fully exposed on the west. A two-story and a one-story addition follow to the east.

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This house is one of the few in the neighborhood which appears on an 1877 map of Towson. The original section of the is two stories high over a stone cellar which is fully exposed on the northwest. A door, which display six panels of grink-ogee moldings and 6/6 window appear on the west wall of the cellar. Two windows light each floor on this facade. The roof was raised to cover an extension of the house to the east. On the south, a 6/6 sish window lgiths the first floor to the west and a 1/1 sash window lights each floor to the east. Two windows light the second floor on the east and one lights the north.

A one-story shed-roofed kitchen has been added to the east anda modern porch runs along the original north wall. The house is covered with grey asphalt shingles. The architraves are formed of simple flat boards.

The floor plan of the original house consists of one room with a stair along the north wall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The relative prosperity enjoyed by Blacks in E. Towson precipitated a desire by Blacks to acquire more land and build bigger and more elaborate houses. The Williams House bears testimony to this desire.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marcus E. Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect

7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET &amp; NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

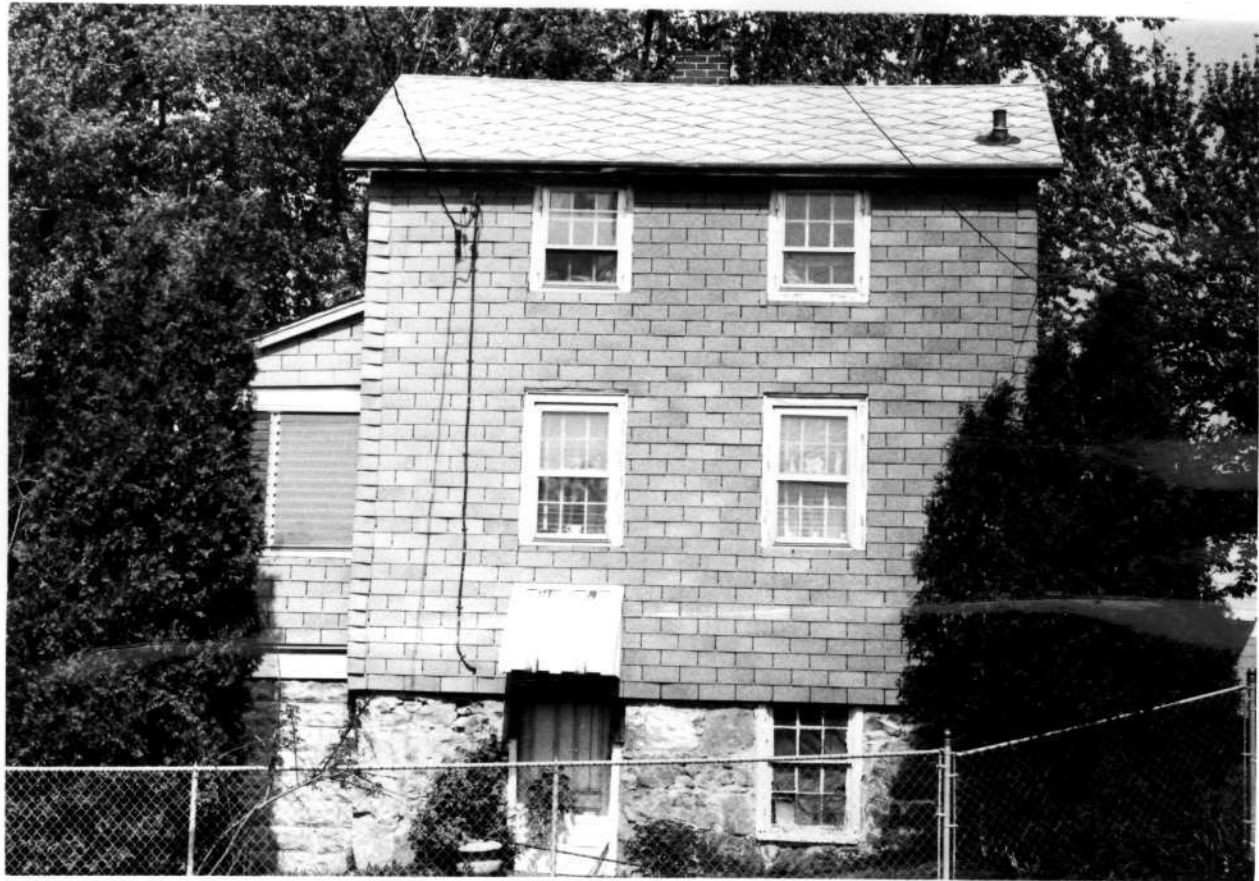
Towson Md. 21204

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



B4-1038

Mayfield Williams House  
133 Chesapeake Ave.  
Towson, Md.  
west

Merry Stinson  
1977